



State Water Resources Control Board



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Secretary for
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Protection

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Gray Davis
Governor

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Regarding Proposed Revisions to the State Water Resources Control Board's Annual Fee Schedule

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

July 28, 2003 – 10:00 a.m.

**Joe Serna Jr./Cal/EPA Building
Coastal Hearing Room – Second Floor
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

August 11, 2003 – 10:00 a.m.

**South Coastal Air Quality Mgmt. District
Auditorium
21865 E. Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA**

SUBJECT OF WORKSHOPS

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will hold two public workshops to receive comments on recommendations to revise the current annual fee schedule in accordance with the State Budget proposed for Fiscal Year 2003-04. The budget requires an increase in the level of fee support of the SWRCB's regulatory programs by \$16 million, replacing a General Fund reduction of the same amount.

WHO MAY BE AFFECTED

The proposal will affect all holders of waste discharge requirements and NPDES permits, enrollees under general permits (including enrollees under the industrial and construction storm water permits and co-permittees under areawide municipal storm water permits) and applicants for Section 401 water quality certifications.

BACKGROUND

The SWRCB's current annual fee schedule (contained in California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 9, Article 1) was adopted by the SWRCB on October 3, 2002. The fee revenues support the cost of regulating permitted discharges. Over the years, the

proportion of the regulatory program costs supported by fee revenues had declined, while the proportion supported by the State's General Fund had grown. The State Budget for Fiscal Year 2002-03 increased the proportion of program costs supported by the regulated dischargers and reduced the amount of General Fund support. The fee schedules adopted on October 3, 2002, represented the first fee increases in over 10 years.

The budget bill currently pending before the Legislature would once again increase fees and eliminate General Fund support of SWRCB's regulatory programs. Fee revenue would need to increase from \$32 million in the Fiscal Year 2002-03 to \$48 million in FY 2003-04. Separate legislation (ABX1 10, Oropeza) removes the statutory cap on our fees. This legislation has been passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor and will be effective 90 days after the special legislative session ends. As of the date of this notice, the special session has not ended.

Attached is a synopsis of the staff proposed fee schedule revisions to implement the necessary fee increases. The adopted revisions will be retroactive to July 1, 2003. The complete fee schedule revisions can be viewed at www.swrcb.ca.gov. To receive a mailed or faxed copy of the revisions, please call (916) 341-5128.

WORKSHOP ISSUES

The purpose of the workshops is to receive comments on the proposed revisions to the fee schedule. The SWRCB will take the recommendation and the comments under advisement before adopting emergency regulations to revise the fee schedule. **The emergency regulations will be considered for adoption at a future Board meeting.**

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

These are informal workshops. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of participants, but the SWRCB and its staff may ask clarifying questions.

Participants are encouraged to provide written comments **by noon on July 25, 2003**. The SWRCB requests that written comments be sent to:

**Fee Revisions
Division of Administrative Services
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812-0100**

The SWRCB requests electronic copies of written comments be e-mailed to feechange@das.swrcb.ca.gov with a subject line of "Fee Revisions."

Participants are encouraged to summarize their written comments in their oral presentations. Oral presentations will be limited to five minutes or less. Participants with similar comments are requested to make joint presentations.

DIRECTIONS

Maps for both locations can be found at
<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>
<http://www.aqmd.gov/map/dir2.html>

Questions concerning this notice may be directed to the Division of Administrative Services at (916) 341- 5128 or FAX 341-5048. Questions may also be sent by electronically to feechange@das.swrcb.ca.gov with the subject line of "Question."


Debbie Irvin

Clerk to the Board

Dated: JUL 2 2003

Attachment

Note: Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Adrian Perez at (916) 341-5880 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date. TTY users may contact the California Relay service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Audio broadcast of the Northern California meeting is available at:

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Broadcast/>

"All visitors are required to sign in and receive a badge prior to attending any meeting. The Visitor and Environmental Services Center is located just inside and to the left of the Cal/EPA Building's public entrance. Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level so please allow up to 15 minutes for this process."